

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A method for examining caries risk in a human, comprising

measuring determining an antibody titer of a secretory immunoglobulin A in saliva sample of the human with a labeled antibody, wherein the antibody is directed against an antigen that is a synthetic peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and

correlating the antibody titer to a high or low risk of caries, wherein if the antibody titer is low, the caries risk is higher than if the antibody titer is high.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 2, wherein the saliva sample is diluted in saline.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the saline is a buffered saline solution.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the antibody is labeled.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the antibody is labeled with an enzyme or a fluorescent substance.

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Claim 7 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the antibody is labeled with an enzyme.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the antibody is labeled with a fluorescent substance.